



RNLI PRESS RELEASE

REPORT No: 10/99

Dutch Yacht aground on Farne Islands.

At 7.40pm on Saturday 10th July, 1999, Tyne Tees Coastguard received a report by VHF radio from the Dutch Yacht "Nan", that it had hit rocks on the north of the Farne Islands, in patchy fog. The skipper, who was the sole person on board, had dropped anchor. He stated that he had become confused in the fog and had missed a navigation buoy. The boat was not taking water, but was bumping on the submerged rocks. The coastguard requested the immediate launch of the Seahouses All Weather Lifeboat, being concerned for the safety of the yachtsman and his boat. The Lifeboat under the command of Coxswain David Shiel, accompanied by the inshore lifeboat, launched at once and proceeded to the casualty.

The Lifeboats searched the Kettle anchorage by the Inner Farne, but could find no trace of the yacht. In thickening fog conditions, the lifeboat used the VHF radio direction finding equipment, and located the yacht aground on the Megstone, just north of the Farnes. A rope was secured to the yacht, and Coxswain Shiel was able to gently pull the boat clear of the rocks. The "Nan" was then towed back to Seahouses Harbour, where the skipper intended to examine his boat at low water for any damage. Safely moored in the harbour at Seahouses, he thanked the Lifeboat crew for their most welcome assistance !.

By the time the boats reached the harbour at about 9.45pm, the fog was quite thick, and the lifeboat had to use its electronic navigation equipment due to the worsening visibility.

11.15pm 10/07/99.

Ends.

Seahouses Lifeboat Crew.

